



Meeting Dates & Locations

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| City Council Regular Meeting Transit Center | 2 nd & 4 th Monday 6:00 p.m. |
| City Council Study Session - Transit Center (when required) | 2 nd & 4 th Monday 5:00 p.m. |
| Planning Commission Transit Center | 1 st & 3 rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m. |
| Park Advisory Board PW - 615 North 5 th Ave. | 2 nd Tuesday 6:30 p.m. |
| Design Review Board PW - 615 North 5 th Ave. | 2 nd Wednesday 5:00 p.m. |
| Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) - Transit Center Conf. Room | 2 nd Monday 11:00 a.m. |
| Centennial Committee Transit Center Conf. Room | 3 rd Wednesday 1:00 p.m. |
| Sequim Speaks – Transit Center Conf. Room | 4 th Tuesday 6:30 p.m. |

SEQUIM NEWS

DECEMBER 2010

Upcoming Public Hearings

December 13: 1) 2010 Comprehensive Plan Amendments
2) Renewable Energy Ordinance

City Offices will be closed on

December 23 and 24 – Christmas Holiday

December 31 – New Year's Eve

December 27 City Council Meeting Cancelled



Winter Has Arrived...

and with it snow and ice. There are approximately nineteen miles of private road in the City of Sequim. Property owners are reminded that the City can only maintain public roads within the City limits.

Utility Discounts Available for Low Income Residents

The City of Sequim recognizes these are tough economic times. To financially assist those struggling in meeting their basic needs, utility rate reductions will be available for qualifying low income residents effective for February 2011 usage. If your income does not exceed 125% of the federal poverty guidelines or \$25,000, you may be eligible. There is an additional net-asset based test to determine qualification. The exact amount of your discount will be administratively determined upon receipt of all applications. Qualifying applicants will see the discounted rates on their February usage bill.

Applications are due January 31, 2011 and are available at the following locations: City Hall, DSHS, Sequim Community Aid, St Vincent De Paul, Serenity House, [United Way](#) and the Sequim Senior Center. Applications can also be downloaded from our website at www.ci.sequim.wa.us. Please don't hesitate to call City Hall (360) 683-4139 with your questions.

Tips to Remember While Driving in Freezing Temperatures and Snow

The first step to safe winter driving is to properly prepare yourself and your vehicle before heading out.

- ❖ Check to ensure that you have plenty of fuel to get where you are going
- ❖ Remember to give yourself ample time to slowly get to your destination
- ❖ Check weather reports or road webcams in areas that you will be traveling
- ❖ Completely defrost your vehicle
- ❖ Tell someone your projected route and give them a timeline of where you will be and when you will be there

Drivers must be extra observant, drive defensively, and give themselves a cushion of distance from other cars. Immediately report reckless or aggressive drivers to 9-1-1.



Early Holiday Decorations on Cedar Street

Several citizens have contacted the City voicing their displeasure about the holiday decorations that were placed on Cedar Street between Sequim Avenue and Second Avenue near the end of October. The decorations were installed to support the Sequim Open Air Market's final weekend in October that has a "holiday" theme. The decorations were left up until removal after the holidays so no additional time is incurred by City workers. The City appreciated hearing from its citizens. We will reconsider different decorations for next year and will make a better effort to keep you informed.

**Budget Message to City of Sequim Citizens
From City Manager Steve Burkett**

I am pleased to present the City's 2011 Annual Budget, which is scheduled to be adopted by the City Council on December 6, 2010. The budget is a financial roadmap for the City that will move our community towards achieving our goals within the constraints of limited resources brought on by very difficult economic conditions. It represents our continued commitment to prudent fiscal management, effective service delivery and to providing our citizens with the highest quality of life.

Balanced Budget

The 2011 budget is balanced and represents projected revenues of \$7,873,235 and projected expenditures of \$7,867,971. Balancing the budget was accomplished by a combination of reductions in spending and by an increase in projected revenue through increased sales tax, an increase in Interfund Services, an increase in development related fees and a 2% increase in the utility tax. The City opted to not increase the property tax levy by the allowed 1%. The total budget including all funds is \$18,607,098.

Due to the recession, over the past few years City revenues have declined which has resulted in the City's expenses exceeding revenues and the need to use reserve funds. The 2011 budget is a significant turning point in that it balances expenses with available revenues and also sets aside funds for significant long-term needs like the purchase of new equipment. The balanced budget creates a foundation and includes a "reset" of expenses to provide for balanced budgets in the foreseeable future.

Utility Tax Increase from 6% to 8%

The 2% utility tax increase affects sewer utility rates only and is anticipated to raise household rates by approximately \$1.20 per household per month. The 2% increase on water will be absorbed by the City due to a healthy reserve balance and an adequate coverage of operating costs of the water utility fund. The City has established utility rate reductions for qualifying low income residents effective for February 2011 usage. (See related story for more details.)

Budget Principles

The budget was based on the City Council vision and priorities that were adopted in March 2010. It was also guided by the recently adopted City Council financial policies and the following budget principles:

- Balance the budget, current revenues and current expenses so we do not continue to spend down reserves and fund balance
- Continue to implement City Council top priorities
- Minimize the impact of any tax and fee increases on residence and ratepayers – especially low income residents
- Make decisions in the 2011 budget that reset the City's financial plan and creates a foundation to maintain a balanced budget in the next several years
- Maintain top priority services but reduce lower priority services in order to reduce expenses
- Improve services in areas where we are underfunded or have deficient service levels
- Improve two-way communication with citizens
- Avoid employee layoffs and furlough and the related service reductions where possible
- Avoid expenditure reductions or other decisions that have a long-term negative impact on the City
- Don't delay expenditures that are necessary today and represent "pay me now or pay me later" choices

Although the unprecedented economic circumstances over the last few years has required us to make some difficult decisions in order to balance the budget, the budget does comprehensively address the City's highest priority – service and capital needs for 2011. It does, however, reduce some lower priority service levels and does not satisfy all of the demands placed on the City. It may require us to make slower progress than we desire to achieve some of our goals, but it does establish a new foundation for financial stability in future years.

Sequim History – 1968

- John Kirner donated Lots 25 and 26 of the Kirner Addition (4th and Pine) to the City of Sequim for use as a park with a playground. The park is now known as Kirner Park. The FFA boys offered to take on the beautification of Kirner Park.
- Attorney Platt suggested Council consider adopting a zoning ordinance, platting regulations and a comprehensive plan. It was suggested a committee be formed to study literature provided on comprehensive planning and the future development of the Town. It was suggested business people be included in the group.
- Sequim joined the Regional Planning Council that opened opportunities for grants.
- A committee was appointed to investigate and study possibilities of a youth recreation center in Sequim.
- Chief Klint was authorized to form a Reserve Police Unit on a volunteer basis.
- Creighton Daniels was appointed Fire Chief. Iris Marshall retired.